

Let's Talk!

Supporting Communication Throughout the Day

4 Major Points to Remember:

1. Follow the child's lead

- a. Choosing topics that children are interested in encourages them to keep talking to you; if you show interest in the same toys, ideas, objects, etc., children will be more likely to keep playing and talking.
- b. Proximity to the child is important: Attempting to change a behavior or gain attention from across the room is ineffective. Being at their eye-level is the most effective.

2. Be descriptive rather than directive

- a. As children play, describe what they are doing rather than telling them what to do or asking them too many questions.
- b. Model actions, descriptive words and labels of objects/toys during play.

3. Recasting and modeling

- a. When recasting, use the "3-5 Rule"
 - i. Repeating an utterance that contains an error, but with the error corrected 3-5 times.
 - ii. Example:
C: I like his punny pace
A: I like his funny face, too. It's a really funny face. A funny face. Can you make a funny face? Funny faces make me laugh.
- b. When modeling remember to:
 - i. Use an *unhurried* rate of speech
 - ii. Use *clear* speech
 - iii. Use *short* sentences
 - iv. Use *appropriate vocabulary*
- c. Good Modeling
 - i. Provides positive reinforcement without overt criticism, without interrupting the flow of the conversation, and without getting in the way of listening.

4. Wait time

- a. When opportunities arise where it is appropriate to ask children questions, make sure you give them time to respond
 - i. Count to 5 in your head before you ask again or provide a prompt.
 - ii. Wait time provides an opportunity to access the language children need without feeling any pressure.

Parent Handout 1